

# COMMUNITY FORESTRY ADVISORY BOARD

September 13, 2011

Members Present: Scott Hofeling; Emily Casper; Francis Moul and Andy Campbell  
Members Absent: John Williams, Robert Smith, Chair and Larry Anderson  
Staff Present: Lynn Johnson, Jerry Shorney, Bob Weyhrich and Janet Ball  
Staff Absent:

Emily Casper called the meeting to order and noted that the Open Meeting Law was posted.

Minutes from August 9, 2011; Francis made the motion to approve the minutes, Andy seconded, voted minutes approved

## **Comments from public**

None

## **Summary of impacts to public trees from August storms:**

Bob Weyhrich said that the loss to the City was BIG. Seventeen trees fell on houses and 27 limbs or trees fell on cars. A lot of damage was done to street trees, especially in the SW area of town. Forestry crews are just now getting into the parks to clean up hangers and tree removals there. So far this year 550 trees are being removed on the City right-of-way and 220 of those were from the August storms.

## **Park Foundation:**

The Lincoln Parks Foundation is offering a \$50.00 voucher to add to the Parks \$50.00 voucher program to help people replace storm damaged trees. They will provide a \$5,000.00 check to cover the cost of 100 extra vouchers. Finke Nursery is planting trees for free this fall. Andy Campbell stated that Campbell Nurseries has put their tree stock on sale rather than free planting.

Bob is concerned about all the remaining stumps. He doesn't want anyone planting until the stump is ground out. We don't want to risk hurting the new tree. Janet Ball suggested that Park workers might be able to help with stump grinding. Jerry said they were still mowing parks.

## **LPS Student Serve:**

Southeast High School seniors are encouraging all students to work on October 1, 2011. A volunteer tree planting of 200 young evergreens in Pioneers Park will take place that day with students helping with the planting. Part will be planted in the park, part on the golf course. Park reforestation funds from money received 20 years ago will be used to plant. Lynn Johnson will send the dates and times to replicate this next spring.

## **Campbells anniversary**

Andy Campbell stated that the nursery will be 100 years old next year. The nursery is planning to plant 100 trees for 100 years. He is currently looking for planting sights.

## **Alternative process for installation of street trees in subdivisions:**

Discussion took place regarding Peter Kat and his proposals to get away from the surety program. Developers no longer would post a bond for sidewalk installation and would like to get away from bonds for street trees. He would like to see the Builders held responsible for trees instead of developers. Concerns about marking out locations were discussed. Department staff will also review potential work load increase.

**New Utility billing donation program:**

Lynn presented the idea of “2 for trees” to establish a “Lincoln Cares” type program attached to Lincoln Water System bills. Since water is only billed every two months it would be a \$2.00 donation that would go into the Lincoln Parks Foundation specifically for tree planting and maintenance. The Lincoln Community Foundation will match funds for trees only.

This idea has already been presented to the Mayor and was given the green light to start in January. Hopefully we will be able to get back to contractual tree planting. We would like to use the funds raised on arterial streets. With proper marketing, this should raise a significant amount of money for trees.

Bob voiced his concern that we do not have Forestry staff enough to keep up with what trees we currently have. If we start planting 500 trees yearly it will be a challenge to establish trunks on the young trees when the time comes. Especially in years like 2010 and 2011 where we have had a lot of rain and trees have put on a lot of growth.

Discussion took place regarding where the “2 for trees” money could be used.

Scott asked how much money has been spent on storm clean up? Jerry replied \$50,000 just in overtime. Bob stated that his Forestry crews have only been working on storm cleanup, no maintenance work or stump grinding has been done since August 5<sup>th</sup>, prior to the first storm.

Bob also stated that the Autumn Blaze Maples and Pear trees took quite a beating with the storms.

**Minimen size to plant:**

Discussion took place on size of trees to be planted on the City right-of-way. Andy likes the potted, smaller size trees and thinks they grow faster than a larger tree when it is transplanted. Bob stated that they used bare-rot stock on Burlington and those trees have done very well. Andy’s only concern about bare rot trees is that they must be stored in a refrigerated truck to keep them cool before planting.

**Adjourn**

Andy made a motion to adjourn, Francis seconded, meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Ball  
Recording Secretary